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***Augusta Dentist Enters Guilty Plea to Charge of Dispensing
Controlled Substances Without a License***

SAVANNAH: Paul B. Murphy, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that **RICHARD R. CLIFFORD, DDS**, a dentist in Augusta, Georgia, entered a guilty plea to a Criminal Information which charged him with dispensing controlled substances under an expired DEA registration number. Clifford entered the guilty plea on May 25 in United States District Court in Augusta, Georgia, before U.S. District Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr.

Clifford pled to a charge that, from August of 1990 through September of 2001, he knowingly and intentionally wrote prescriptions for controlled substances at a time that his DEA registration number had expired. At the hearing, evidence was presented to show that Dr. Clifford had been providing prescriptions to patients while he did not have a valid DEA registration number. Additionally, the evidence also showed that he was practicing with an expired license from the State Board of Dentistry. At sentencing, Dr. Clifford faces up to four years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and up to three years of supervised release. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

Mr. Murphy stated that the guilty plea was the culmination of an investigation by Special Agent Nakia K. Martin of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Diversion Investigator Michael Lowe of the Drug Enforcement Agency, Special Agent Jimmy Talkington of the Georgia

Bureau of Investigation, Special Agent Sherry Mowell of the Georgia Insurance and Safety Commission's Enforcement Division, in conjunction with Assistant District Attorney William P. Doupe of the Toombs Judicial Circuit. Assistant United States Attorney William Frentzen represented the government in the case.

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